



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

AGENCY PURPOSE

The Department of Social Services (DSS) serves families and individuals who need assistance in maintaining or achieving their full potential for self-direction, self-reliance and independent living.

In support of this mission, the department provides a continuum of core programs and services to eligible residents of Connecticut.

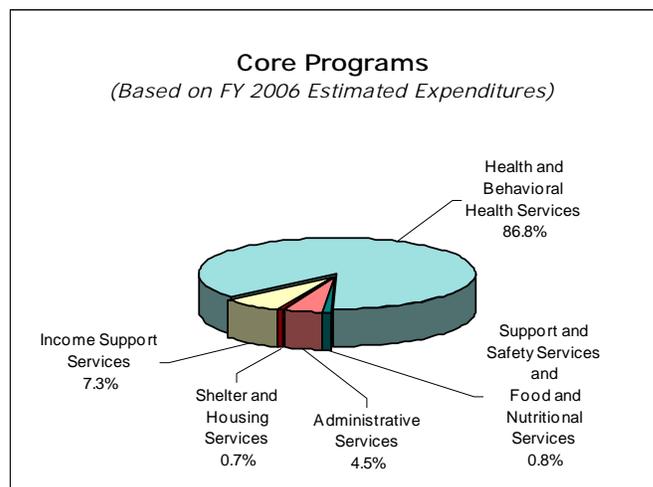
DSS is responsible for administering a number of state and federal programs that provide health and behavioral health services, food and nutritional services, shelter and housing services, income support services, and support and safety services.

In cooperation with other state agencies, municipalities and community-based organizations, the department administers, coordinates, plans, delivers and funds more than ninety social service programs to support eligible children, youth, families, adults, elderly and people with disabilities.

Services are provided through the department's central office in Hartford and 12 offices located in three regions across the state. In addition, the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services operates 16 offices with its central office in Hartford.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- The department received federal approval to implement the nursing home user fee, resulting in significant rate revisions for nursing homes and other private medical providers, as well as additional federal revenue to the state of approximately \$118 million per year.
- The new Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit, also known as Medicare Rx, became effective on January 1, 2006. The department is working to coordinate existing state assistance programs with the Medicare Part D drug benefit and expects to have over 110,000 beneficiaries participating in the new program by May 15, 2006.
- The department received a two-year federal State Pharmacy Assistance Program grant with \$2,555,961 in funding each year beginning in FY 2005 to provide education and outreach about the new Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit.
- Currently, the department funds health insurance coverage for over 240,000 children and 78,530 adult caregivers through the HUSKY program.
- During FY 2005, a monthly average of approximately 14,200 low-income children participated in the child care assistance program, while contracts to state-supported child care centers and school-age programs served another 7,000 children.
- As of December 2005, 22,788 families received cash benefits under the Temporary Family Assistance program.
- The department significantly increased support payments collected for children to \$284.1 million for FY 2005 – an increase of \$14 million over FY 2004.
- As of December 2005, there were 3,946 participants in the federal "Ticket to Work" program. Since its inception in 2000, more than 7,160 participants have benefited from the comprehensive medical plan provided under this initiative for working persons with disabilities.
- As of October 2005, the Connecticut Home Care Program provided a continuum of home-based health care services to approximately 15,212 seniors, assisting them with support and requisite services for them to remain in the community.
- In the past year, \$24 million in funds from the federal Older Americans Act, other federal sources, and the state provided a multitude of social services under the Aging Services Division to an estimated 111,000 seniors across the state.
- In FY 2005, the Aging Services Division funded two projects in the first year of a two-year \$463,830 drug settlement award: (1) the New England Cognitive Center launched a pilot research study to determine the efficacy of cognitive training and exercises for individuals with Alzheimer's disease; and (2) Mulberry Gardens developed a multifaceted continuum of care for individuals with Alzheimer's.
- The department prevented the issuance of approximately \$4.6 million in ineligible benefits through the Fraud Early Detection and recovery programs during FY 2005.
- As part of the Fatherhood Initiative, the department, in consultation with the National Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families, developed a certification process for fatherhood programs in the state of Connecticut – the first of its kind in the nation. The certification process provides uniform standards and rigid guidelines of practice for fatherhood programs located in the state. This strategy ensures consistent and quality service delivery to low-income, non-custodial fathers and their families, while also recognizing exemplary fatherhood programs. In 2004, five Connecticut-based programs became Fatherhood-certified.



RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS

Reductions	<u>2006-2007</u>
• Carryforward FY2006 Funds	-50,000,000
• Update Medical Necessity and Appropriateness Definition under Medicaid <i>This proposal allows DSS to replace the current outdated medical necessity definition under Medicaid with a definition used under both Medicare and private commercial health care plans. This definition was adopted as part of the recent restructuring of the State Administered General Assistance program and provides for the provision of services that are consistent with generally accepted standards of care.</i>	-3,100,000
• Require Certification for Medication Administration in Residential Care Homes and Boarding Homes <i>Current statute allows unlicensed personnel to obtain certification for the administration of medication. Under this proposal, residential care homes and boarding homes will be required to have individuals certified so that they can provide medication administration to their residents, resulting in savings under the Medicaid program.</i>	-1,286,400
• Modify Prior Authorization Requirements for Home Health Aide Services <i>Currently, DSS policy allows home health aides to provide 20 hours per week per client of home health services without requiring prior authorization. Under this initiative, the number of hours a home health aide can provide home health services without obtaining prior authorization under Medicaid will be reduced to 14 hours per week per client.</i>	-880,000
• Recycle Customized Wheelchairs Provided under Medicaid <i>Under this initiative, DSS will allow nursing homes to recycle customized wheelchairs at an estimated savings of 25% over the purchase of a new wheelchair. Because current practice allows nursing homes to either discard the chair or donate it to the decedent's family, this policy change will result in the increased use of refurbished customized wheelchairs.</i>	-838,000
• Implement a Premium Assistance Program for Clients Receiving HUSKY A Services <i>Under this proposal, DSS will seek waiver authority to require HUSKY A clients to enroll in health plans offered by their employer when available and when cost effective. DSS will cover any additional costs such as premiums, deductibles, and co-pays and will provide any wraparound coverage needed to ensure their medical coverage is similar to the existing Medicaid benefit package. Although start-up costs will be required in FY 2007, savings of \$5 million are anticipated in FY 2008.</i>	500,000
Technical Adjustments	
• Adjust Funding to Reflect Current Expenditure and Caseload Trends <i>The revised cost estimates are based on current trends and will not result in a reduction in services.</i>	-48,949,179
• Adjust CADAP Appropriation Levels to Reflect Availability of Funds from Other Sources <i>CADAP funding is being restored to historical levels due to the availability of other funds.</i>	-5,429,674
• Enhance IT Management Services by Transferring Funds to DOIT <i>This reallocation of funds will allow for the funding of three Information Technology Managers at DOIT.</i>	-282,400
• Transfer One Position and Funding to CDHI	-65,466
• Re-Align Grant Funding to More Appropriately Reflect Funding Sources	
• Transfer Salary Adjustment Funds for Settled Bargaining Units <i>Necessary funding is transferred from the central Reserve for Salary Adjustment account to agency budgets.</i>	1,336,381
• Provide Funds for Increased Energy Costs	167,628
Expansion Adjustments	
• Increase Rates for Nursing Homes, Residential Care Homes and ICF/MR's <i>Under this initiative, rates for these facilities will increase 2% effective October 1, 2006.</i>	19,067,731
• Enhance Dental Services under the HUSKY Program <i>As a way to increase access to dental care, the "Access for Baby Care" (ABC) Program will be implemented on a pilot basis. Under this program, the child's current pediatrician will examine an infant at regular intervals before the age of three and apply topical fluoride to prevent tooth decay. The mother and child will also be taught better oral hygiene practices. In addition, to increase preventive care, DSS will expand the dental program to include sealant coverage for premolars. These sealants will help prevent tooth decay, which can progress to more extensive disease.</i>	2,950,000
• Increase Funding under the Transportation for Employment Independence Program <i>These funds will ensure that some of the transit routes that provide transportation to employment sites of TFA clients are restored. This program had been funded with TANF High Performance Bonus Funds, which are no longer available.</i>	500,000
• Provide Additional Funds to Maintain Service Levels under the Elderly Nutrition Program <i>Due to reductions in federal funding, additional funds are needed to ensure that the Elderly Nutrition Program can continue to serve the same number of clients.</i>	500,000
• Increase Funding to the Nursing Facility Transition Project <i>The Nursing Facility Transition project assists Connecticut residents with disabilities, who choose to leave nursing home placements, to transition to the community. These funds will ensure the continued operation of the Nursing Facility Transition project.</i>	95,000

- Provide Funds to Continue the New England Cognitive Center's Brain G.Y.M.M. Program 50,000
The funds requested will continue the program and allow for additional research in maintaining and improving cognitive functioning for individuals with early and moderate Alzheimer's disease.
- Provide ABI & PCA Waiver Participants with Option to Remain in Waivers Beyond Age 64
An extension of the Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) and Personal Care Assistance (PCA) waiver services will provide access to necessary supports that are not available for persons with special needs who are over the age of 64. While no additional funds are expected to be needed in FY 2007, it is recognized that allowing clients to continue on the waiver may result in the need to increase the number of slots under these waivers in subsequent fiscal years.

AGENCY SUMMARY

<i>Personnel Summary</i>	2004-2005 Authorized	2005-2006 Estimated	2006-2007 Appropriated	2006-2007 Net Adjustments	2006-2007 Revised Recommended
<u>Permanent Full-Time Positions</u>					
General Fund	1,692	1,760	1,760	-1	1,759
<u>Financial Summary</u>					
	2004-2005 Actual	2005-2006 Estimated	2006-2007 Appropriated	2006-2007 Net Adjustments	2006-2007 Revised Recommended
Personal Services	93,989,732	106,033,970	107,578,015	1,270,915	108,848,930
Other Expenses	85,258,853	82,675,711	84,450,430	1,085,228	85,535,658
<u>Capital Outlay</u>					
Equipment	0	1,000	1,000	0	1,000
<u>Other Current Expenses</u>					
Children's Health Council	25,000	25,750	25,310	125,000	150,310
HUSKY Outreach	684,000	704,520	692,600	0	692,600
Work Performance Bonus	5,534,970	0	0	0	0
Genetic Tests in Paternity Actions	161,530	190,050	191,895	0	191,895
State Food Stamp Supplement	185,371	202,148	237,287	0	237,287
Day Care Projects	676,264	473,496	465,353	0	465,353
Commission on Aging	104,113	0	0	0	0
HUSKY Program	27,240,487	26,450,000	27,250,000	1,970,000	29,220,000
HUSKY Plus	550,000	0	0	0	0
Department on Aging	0	0	450,000	0	450,000
TOTAL - Other Current Expenses	35,161,735	28,045,964	29,312,445	2,095,000	31,407,445
<u>Pmts to Other Than Govts</u>					
Vocational Rehabilitation	6,425,303	7,171,325	7,240,949	0	7,240,949
Medicaid	2,922,402,715	3,210,485,155	3,311,808,128	-61,218,000	3,250,590,128
Lifestar Helicopter	1,308,625	1,347,884	1,360,970	0	1,360,970
Old Age Assistance	29,300,384	31,801,669	32,722,691	-1,985,260	30,737,431
Aid to the Blind	605,852	672,782	695,336	-67,803	627,533
Aid to the Disabled	54,376,731	55,732,374	56,358,737	-633,733	55,725,004
Temporary Assistance to Families - TANF	127,855,121	132,281,610	131,818,117	-11,418,315	120,399,802
Emergency Assistance	0	500	500	0	500
Food Stamp Training Expenses	0	32,397	32,397	0	32,397
Conn Pharmaceutical Assist to Elderly	60,517,110	50,089,246	58,317,190	-4,300,000	54,017,190
Healthy Start	1,197,872	1,433,808	1,412,937	0	1,412,937
DMHAS – Disproportionate Share	105,935,000	105,935,000	105,935,000	0	105,935,000
Connecticut Home Care Program	36,152,041	43,775,000	50,180,000	-705,000	49,475,000
Human Resource Dev-Hispanic Programs	387,629	797,758	791,834	0	791,834
Services to the Elderly	4,620,358	4,592,006	4,533,436	555,092	5,088,528
Safety Net Services	1,211,076	1,545,000	1,518,870	0	1,518,870
Transportation for Employment Independence	2,613,932	2,692,350	2,646,809	500,000	3,146,809
Transitory Rental Assistance	1,062,641	1,183,432	1,163,412	0	1,163,412
Refunds of Collections	220,903	187,150	187,150	0	187,150
Services for Persons with Disabilities	758,490	738,486	725,966	0	725,966
Child Care Services - TANF/CCDBG	59,588,417	68,579,793	69,502,965	217,263	69,720,228

Budget Summary

Nutrition Assistance	326,951	336,760	340,029	0	340,029
Housing/Homeless Services	22,034,575	25,880,544	26,735,627	15,291	26,750,918
Employment Opportunities	1,023,338	1,228,002	1,207,234	0	1,207,234
Human Resource Development	112,250	50,760	49,863	-15,303	34,560
Child Day Care	3,245,561	6,907,319	6,940,400	-1,325,051	5,615,349
Independent Living Centers	583,602	636,112	625,948	0	625,948
AIDS Drug Assistance	606,678	1,776,352	6,036,352	-5,429,674	606,678
Disproportionate Share-Med Emer Assist	63,725,000	67,179,843	53,725,000	0	53,725,000
DSH-Urban Hospitals/Distressed	31,550,000	31,550,000	31,550,000	0	31,550,000
State Administered General Assistance	131,953,386	143,588,645	152,596,519	-5,500,000	147,096,519
School Readiness	3,198,048	4,143,990	4,088,270	0	4,088,270
Connecticut Children's Medical Center	6,750,000	6,952,500	7,020,000	0	7,020,000
Community Services	1,255,229	1,797,518	1,828,892	-125,000	1,703,892
Alzheimer Respite Care	1,120,200	1,256,806	1,269,008	0	1,269,008
Family Grants	484,826	468,830	460,882	0	460,882
Human Svcs Infrastructure Community Action	2,641,956	2,721,215	2,675,184	0	2,675,184
Teen Pregnancy Prevention	1,358,513	1,388,252	1,358,832	0	1,358,832
Medicare Part D Supplemental Needs Fund	0	5,000,000	0	0	0
TOTAL - Pmts to Other Than Govts	3,688,510,313	4,023,938,173	4,137,461,434	-91,435,493	4,046,025,941
<u>Pmts to Local Governments</u>					
Child Day Care	3,448,239	3,487,295	3,521,152	1,325,051	4,846,203
Human Resource Development	31,454	14,027	13,783	15,303	29,086
Human Resource Dev-Hispanic Programs	4,920	5,068	4,987	0	4,987
Teen Pregnancy Prevention	798,705	839,946	831,679	0	831,679
Services to the Elderly	46,774	48,177	47,365	-5,092	42,273
Housing/Homeless Services	660,265	680,074	668,567	-15,291	653,276
Community Services	119,195	85,285	83,823	0	83,823
TOTAL - Pmts to Local Governments	5,109,552	5,159,872	5,171,356	1,319,971	6,491,327
TOTAL - General Fund	3,908,030,185	4,245,854,690	4,363,974,680	-85,664,379	4,278,310,301



SOLDIERS', SAILORS' & MARINES' FUND

AGENCY PURPOSE

- To provide temporary financial assistance to needy wartime veterans and their families.
- To provide counseling and guidance to veterans in helping to overcome the circumstances that create the need for assistance.
- To refer veterans to appropriate state, federal and local facilities and/or services in circumstances where long-term assistance is required.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

The agency continues to make a concerted effort to insure that returning servicemen and servicewomen are aware of assistance available to them through the agency. The agency continues to participate in redeployment briefings of all returning Connecticut units. In addition, the agency has

increased outreach efforts to Connecticut's wartime veterans, including the recently operational Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund web site at the State of Connecticut portal web site.

AGENCY SUMMARY

<i>Personnel Summary</i>	2004-2005 Authorized	2005-2006 Estimated	2006-2007 Appropriated	2006-2007 Net Adjustments	2006-2007 Revised Recommended
<u>Permanent Full-Time Positions</u>					
Soldiers, Sailors and Marines' Fund	14	14	14	0	14
<i>Financial Summary</i>	2004-2005 Actual	2005-2006 Estimated	2006-2007 Appropriated	2006-2007 Net Adjustments	2006-2007 Revised Recommended
Personal Services	713,024	773,049	824,027	0	824,027
Other Expenses	100,071	98,145	98,145	0	98,145
<u>Capital Outlay</u>					
Equipment	0	8,500	6,500	0	6,500
<u>Other Current Expenses</u>					
Award Payments to Veterans	1,728,383	1,890,000	1,979,800	0	1,979,800
Fringe Benefits	391,156	490,725	521,111	0	521,111
TOTAL - Other Current Expenses	2,119,539	2,380,725	2,500,911	0	2,500,911
TOTAL - Soldiers, Sailors and Marines' Fund	2,932,634	3,260,419	3,429,583	0	3,429,583